about 30.20 million tonnes by 1996-97 (as per mid-term appraisal of the 8th Five Year Plan) which is expected to be achieved by contribution from existing mines, on-going projects and also new projects. The Government have sanctioned two new coal mining projects in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. in the 8th Plan viz. Medapalli Opencast Project (1.25 m.t.p.a.) and Padmavati Khani UG Project (1.20 m.t.p.a.). Some more important projects like Gautham Khani OCP, Ramagundam Shaft Block-I, R.K. New (Tech.) etc. are also at advanced stages of appraisal in the Govt. for development during the 8th Plan.

(e) The assessment of requirement of coal is done for the whole country and not State-wise. The total supplies of coal to all consumers located in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1993-94 from Coal India Ltd./Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. were as follows :

	Data provisional
SCCL .	198.75 lakh tonnes
CIL . .	56.30 lakh tonnes

(f) and (g) Based on the long-term assessment of demand of coal for the various sectors during the 8th Plan period, annual plan targets as well as budget allocation are fixed by the Government in respect of coal companies. For 1994-95, coal production target for SCCL has been fixed at 25.60 million tonnes. The corresponding outlay has been fixed at Rs. 483.40 crores which includes provisions for existing mines, new projects, expansion programmes, mechanisation of mining operations etc. The coal production in Coal India Ltd. and SCCL has been planned keeping in view the sectoral raw coal demand of 268.50 million tonnes of the entire country (including Andhra Pradesh).

Import of coal for thermal power plants

712. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to import coal for use in thermal power plants;

(b) if so, the quantity, quality and value of the Coal proposed to be imported and the names of the countries from which coal is to be imported; and

(c) whether such quality of coal is not available in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Indigenous coal production is adequate to meet the country's entire requirements of non-coking coal including the requirements of the power houses both in terms of quality and quantity. The overall demand materialisation of power sector during last two years had been almost 100% and even more. The power houses are having comfortable stocks with them. As such there is no case for import of coal by power houses.

With declining trend of coal price in the internarional market and reduction in import duty from 85% to 35%, some power houses, particularly those located in the coastal areas, may resort to imports of coal. However since no permission/licence from Central Government is required for import of coal, the actual imports of coal, if any, are to be made by the power stations themselves considering their needs and exercising their own commercial judgement.